

Attention Duck Hunters!!!!

2014 -- Mississippi River Duck Zone

Beginning in 2011, Wisconsin added a third duck hunting zone. The Mississippi River zone which has been a Canada goose subzone is now also a duck hunting zone. The zone is defined by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad tracks on the east and the MN state line on the west. There are a number of issues both veteran and new river hunters should know about this new zone:



- When you are **west of the tracks you are in the Mississippi River duck zone** and when you are east of the railroad tracks you are in the south duck zone.
- The Mississippi River duck zone season dates are September 27- October 5 and October 18 – December 7.
- The South duck zone opens later on October 4 – October 12 and October 18 – December 7.
- No-wake, voluntary avoidance, and closed areas plus applicable Federal regulations on the Upper Miss National Wildlife Refuge. Please see the Fish and Wildlife Service website and review maps of the area you wish to hunt for more info:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/uppermississippiriver/Hunting.html>

- Unlike fishing regulations which have special ‘boundary water’ rules, hunters need to be aware of the exact state boundary line separating WI from MN or IA. You must be licensed by any state in which you plan to hunt and adhere to that state’s regulations.
- Note the zone includes only areas west of the railroad tracks (some backwater areas and sloughs of the river are in the South duck zone). Some potential areas of confusion are near Trempealeau Bay and the mouth of the Black river/Van Loon wildlife area.
- To get a better idea of the location of the railroad and state line in the areas you wish to hunt, we suggest the Public Access Lands Mapping tool which is available online at: http://dnrm.wi.gov/sl/?Viewer=Public_Access_Lands
 - Click on the ‘Show Layers’ tab on the upper left corner to allow you to select different map layers such as rivers, state boundaries, roads/highways, smaller streams, civil boundaries, etc.
- Remember:
 - West of the Tracks – Mississippi River Duck Zone
 - East of the Tracks – South Duck Zone